

# **State Development Assessment Provisions guidance material:**

**State code 10: taking or interfering with water**

**WSS/2017/3913**

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## Version history

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## Approval

Position	Name	Date
Director, Divisional Support - Water	Ian Gordon	1/11/2019

## Table of contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Overview</b> .....	<b>1</b>
1.1	Introduction.....	1
1.2	Purpose.....	1
1.3	Using the guidance material.....	1
<b>2</b>	<b>Assessment framework</b> .....	<b>1</b>
2.1	Development assessment process.....	1
2.2	Other approvals.....	2
<b>3</b>	<b>Assessment criteria</b> .....	<b>2</b>
3.1	General performance outcomes.....	3
3.1.1	Performance outcome 1.....	3
3.1.2	Performance outcome 2.....	4
3.1.3	Performance outcome 3.....	4
3.1.4	Performance outcome 4.....	5
3.2	Underground water.....	5
3.2.1	Performance outcome 5 and 6.....	5
3.3	Overland flow.....	6
3.3.1	Performance outcome 7.....	6
3.3.2	Performance outcome 8.....	7
3.3.3	Performance outcome 9.....	8
3.4	Reconfiguring existing works.....	9
3.4.1	Performance outcome 10.....	9
3.4.2	Performance outcomes 11 and 12.....	9
3.4.3	Performance outcome 13.....	10
3.5	Limited catchment area.....	10
3.5.1	Performance outcome 14.....	10
3.6	Contaminated agricultural run-off water.....	11
3.6.1	Performance outcome 15.....	11
3.7	Environmentally relevant activity.....	12
3.7.1	Performance outcome 16.....	12
3.8	Coal seam gas water.....	12
3.8.1	Performance outcome 17.....	12
<b>4</b>	<b>Glossary</b> .....	<b>13</b>

# 1 Overview

## 1.1 Introduction

State code 10: taking or interfering with water (code) in the State Development Assessment Provisions (SDAP) provides the assessment criteria for assessable development. This code applies to **the taking or interfering with water** under the *Planning Act 2016* (Planning Act).

## 1.2 Purpose

This guideline material is not a statutory document. Its purpose is to assist applicants in preparing development applications for taking or interfering with water in response to requirements in the code.

## 1.3 Using the guidance material

This guidance material consists of the following:

- Part 1: Introduction to the code and guidance material.
- Part 2: Overview of the development assessment process for the taking and interfering of water.
- Part 3: Context and advice on supporting actions and methodology intended to assist the applicant in demonstrating compliance with the code.
- Part 4: Glossary.

Please note that the use of this guideline alone does not guarantee compliance with all requirements for the take or interfering with water. This guideline should be interpreted as advice when preparing a development application.

Words bolded in this guideline have the same meaning given in the code.

# 2 Assessment framework

## 2.1 Development assessment process

Queensland's planning and development framework, underpinned by the *Planning Act 2016* (Planning Act), sets out how development applications should be made and assessed. The framework includes a process, rules and forms. Local government is usually the assessment manager, however through the State Assessment and Referral Agency (SARA) the state also assesses some applications.

The development assessment process ensures the development proposals are assessed using a consistent process, and assessment and decision criteria, in accordance with a local government planning scheme.

SARA is responsible for delivering a coordinated, whole-of-government approach to the State's assessment of development applications. SARA provides a single agency lodgement and assessment point for development applications where the chief executive has jurisdiction under the Planning Act (where the State is the assessment manager or referral agency).

As a technical agency for development applications involving the taking or interfering with water, the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (DNRME) provides SARA, as the decision maker or referral agency, with technical advice on whether the application complies with the code.

An applicant wanting to undertake assessable development for the taking or interfering with water is required to make an application to SARA.

A pre-lodgement meeting with SARA is strongly recommended prior to lodging the development application. This meeting will assist applicants in understanding the requirements for technical assessments under the code based on the particular circumstances of the proposed development.

## 2.2 Other approvals

In addition to requiring a development application for works that take or interfere with water, an applicant may be required to meet other statutory requirements under the Planning Act and *Water Act 2000* (Water Act) or the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (Environmental Protection Act) for further aspects of the development.

Further information about the take or interference with water can be found at [www.business.qld.gov.au](http://www.business.qld.gov.au).

## 3 Assessment criteria

This part of the guideline provides additional information to assist applicants with demonstrating compliance with the code. Each section is written according to the relevant provision in the code and provides context, supporting information and actions that may assist in demonstrating compliance with the code.

The guidance material contained in this section provides guidance on the minimum effort required to respond to the criteria in the code, and additional information, data, testing and testing may be required dependant on the development and site specific circumstances.

Table 1 lists all the performance outcomes under the code relevant to particular works for taking or interfering with water.

**Table 1: Development and relevant provision of the codes**

Development	Relevant performance outcomes in the code
For works that take or interfere with water in a <b>watercourse, lake or spring</b> .	PO 1 – 4.
For works that take or interfere with <b>underground water</b> .	PO 1 – 6.
For works that take <b>overland flow water</b> , where prescribed by regulation under the Water Act.	PO1 – 4, PO7 – 9.
For works that take <b>overland flow water</b> , where the works are reconfiguring <b>existing works</b> .	PO1 – 4, PO7– 13.
For works that take <b>overland flow water</b> in a limited catchment area identified in a <b>water plan</b> .	PO1 – 4, PO7 – 9, PO14.

Development	Relevant performance outcomes in the code
For works that take <b>overland flow water</b> which is <b>contaminated agricultural run-off water</b> .	PO1 – 4, PO7 – 9, PO15.
For works that take <b>overland flow water</b> as part of an <b>environmentally relevant activity</b> or under an <b>environmental authority</b> .	PO1 – 4, PO7 – 9, PO16.
For works that take <b>overland flow water</b> , incidental to capturing <b>coal seam gas water</b> .	PO1 – 4, PO7 – 9, PO17.
For works that take <b>overland flow water</b> , under a <b>water entitlement</b> .	PO1 – 4, PO7 – 9.
For works that take <b>overland flow water</b> for the purpose of <b>water sensitive urban design</b> , for developments in urban areas.	PO1 – 4, PO7 – 9.

### 3.1 General performance outcomes

These performance outcomes apply to all works that take or interfere with water in a watercourse and underground water. They ensure that the take and interference of watercourse and underground water does not adversely impact on watercourse, lakes or springs and underground water system.

It also ensures that works are consistent with a **water plan**, **water management protocol** and a moratorium notice issued under the Water Act where applicable.

#### 3.1.1 Performance outcome 1

**PO1** Works do not adversely impact on the natural riverine ecosystem.

#### Demonstrating acceptable outcomes

No acceptable outcome is prescribed.

#### Assessment against performance outcomes 1

In addressing performance outcome 1, applicants need to provide the following information:

- design and location of the works
- hydrological or geomorphic information (if available)
- details of the management of bed and bank erosion
- catchment characteristics
- for underground water applications, the depth of the works and the aquifer that is proposed to be tapped by the works.

Applicants also need to ensure that the proposed works are consistent with an **authorisation** for the take of water.

### 3.1.2 Performance outcome 2

**PO2** Works do not adversely impact other users' ability to access the resource.

#### **Demonstrating acceptable outcomes**

No acceptable outcome is prescribed.

#### **Assessment against performance outcome 2**

In addressing this outcome for surface water and overland flow water, the applicant should provide the design, location, storage volume and condition of the works. The location will be used to determine possible impacts on other users' ability to access the resource. The applicant should demonstrate how the proposed development will not adversely impact on other users of the resource.

For underground water works, applicants also need to consider the buffer distances or the distance between other users. Buffer distances can be found in Schedule 9, Part 2 of the Water Regulation 2016.

Applicants also need to ensure that the proposed works are consistent with an authorisation for the take of water.

### 3.1.3 Performance outcome 3

**PO3** Works do not adversely impact on the physical integrity of the **watercourse**.

#### **Demonstrating acceptable outcomes**

No acceptable outcome prescribed.

#### **Assessment against performance outcome 3**

In addressing performance outcome 3, applicants need to provide the following information:

- design and location of the works
- erosion and sediment control measures, during and post construction
- hydrological or geomorphic information if available
- catchment characteristics
- for underground water applications the depth of the works.

The applicant also needs to provide information on how instream habitats such as riffles, logs, sediments or rock bars are being maintained.



### 3.1.4 Performance outcome 4

**PO4** Works are consistent with any of the following, to the extent they are relevant to the proposed development:

1. a **water plan**
2. a **water management protocol**
3. a **moratorium notice** issued under the Water Act 2000.

#### Demonstrating acceptable outcomes

No acceptable outcome prescribed.

#### Assessment against performance outcome 4

To address this outcome, applicants need to ensure they are consistent with the relevant water plan or water management protocol relevant to their works. This can include, but not limited to:

- capacity limits for overland flow storages
- setback distances for underground water bores
- distances from existing underground water bores and springs, or
- works not resulting in an increase of the volume of water taken in a plan area unless authorised under the water plan.

Applicants also need to ensure that the proposed works are consistent with any current moratorium notices. These notices will restrict what works can be constructed or changed.

Further information on water plans and a list of current moratorium notices see the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy website at [www.dnrme.qld.gov.au](http://www.dnrme.qld.gov.au).

## 3.2 Underground water

Where development involves the take or interference with underground water applicants need to ensure that the works do not impact the underground water system or impact on watercourses, lakes or springs.

### 3.2.1 Performance outcome 5 and 6

**PO5** Works maintain the natural ecosystem processes of the **underground water** system.

**PO6** Works minimise impacts on connectivity between **underground water** and water in a watercourse, lake or spring.

#### Demonstrating acceptable outcomes

No acceptable outcome prescribed.

#### Assessment against performance outcome 5 and 6

In addressing performance outcomes 5 and 6, applicants need to provide the following information:

- design and location of the works,
- hydrological or geomorphic information (if available)

- the depth of the works and the aquifer that is proposed to be tapped by the works.

An assessment also needs to be undertaken to determine if the proposed works will adversely impact on the nature of connectivity between underground water and watercourse, lake or spring. Additional consideration will be given to the risk in establishing connections between otherwise separate aquifers.

Applicants also need to ensure that the proposed works are consistent with an authorisation for the take of water.

### 3.3 Overland flow

The code ensures that works for taking overland flow water are for a relevant activity and that adverse impacts on receiving waters and neighbouring properties are minimised.

#### 3.3.1 Performance outcome 7

**PO7** Works must not take **overland flow** water unless the works are:

1. for an activity prescribed by regulation under the *Water Act 2000*, or
2. for reconfiguring **existing works**, or
3. in a limited catchment area identified in a water plan, or
4. for **contaminated agricultural** run-off water, or
5. part of an environmentally relevant activity or under an **environmental authority**, or
6. incidental to capturing **coal seam gas** water, or
7. consistent with a **water entitlement**, or
8. for the purpose of **water sensitive urban design**; for developments in urban areas.

#### Demonstrating acceptable outcomes

No acceptable outcome prescribed.

#### Assessment against performance outcome 7

To address these criteria, applicants need to demonstrate any of the following relevant activities that are applicable to the proposed works:

- reconfiguring existing works for the taking of overland flow water that are in existence at the time the development application is made
- in a limited catchment area as defined in section 10.3 of the code
- contaminated agricultural run-off
- environmental relevant activity
- environmental authority
- incidental to capturing coal seam gas water
- water sensitive urban design.

### 3.3.2 Performance outcome 8

**PO8** Works minimise the impact on receiving waters and neighbouring properties.

#### Demonstrating acceptable outcomes

Performance outcome 8 can be met by demonstrating acceptable outcome 8.1.

**AO8.1** Works are in accordance with a **certified report** or the works are for:

1. the taking of **contaminated agricultural runoff water** where the volume is less than the volume of the limited capacity identified in a **water plan** or **water management protocol**, or
2. if no limited capacity is identified the capacity is less than 12 megalitres of **contaminated agricultural run-off water**, or
3. taking for stock and domestic purposes, or
4. taking **overland flow** water under a **water entitlement**

This acceptable outcome can be met by ensuring that the works are in accordance with a certified report or demonstrating that one is not required where the works are for the taking of:

- contaminated agricultural runoff water where the volume is less than the volume of the limited capacity identified in a water plan or water management protocol
- contaminated agricultural run-off water, the capacity is less than 12 megalitres if no limited capacity is identified
- water for stock and domestic purposes, or taking overland flow water under a water entitlement.

A certified report is a report:

- produced and certified by a person who:
  - is a Registered Professional Engineer of Queensland (RPEQ) and
  - has relevant farm water supply discipline experience if the proposed development is for agricultural production
- that is prepared in accordance with, or in consideration of, the information on certified reports provided on the Queensland Government Business and Industry Portal for 'overland flow works that require certification'.

Further information about certified reports can be found on the business portal at [www.business.qld.gov.au](http://www.business.qld.gov.au).

## Assessment against performance outcome 8

To meet performance outcome 8 a applicants needs to demonstrate that the works are:

- in accordance with a certified report
- for a volume more than the volume of the limited capacity identified in a water plan or water management protocol
- for contaminated agricultural run-off water, the capacity is less than 12 megalitres if no limited capacity is identified
- for taking water for stock and domestic purposes, or taking overland flow water under a water entitlement.

### 3.3.3 Performance outcome 9

**PO9** Works are located, constructed and operated in a way that minimises adverse impacts on neighbouring properties

#### Demonstrating acceptable outcomes

Performance outcome 9 can be met by demonstrating the following:

- acceptable outcome 9.1
- acceptable outcome 9.2
- acceptable outcome 9.3

**AO9.1** Works are contained within the property boundaries

**AO9.2** At full supply level, the area inundated is contained within the property boundaries.

To meet acceptable outcomes 9.1 and 9.2 the applicants need to provide design details which show:

- works are contained within the property boundary.
- that at full supply level, the area inundated is contained within the property boundaries.
- that the storage will not back up beyond the upstream boundary of the property owner, into the upstream neighbours property.

**AO9.3 Bywash** resulting from the works and any water diverted away from contaminated areas exits the property as close as practicable to the same location to which it exited the property boundary prior to construction of the works

To meet this acceptable outcome applicants need to ensure that the design provided:

- bywash resulting from the works, and any water diverted away from contaminated areas, exits the property as close as practicable to the same location to which it existed the property boundary prior to construction of the works
- bywash and spillway flows are returned to the original drainage feature before leaving the property.

### Assessment against performance outcome 9

The performance outcome can be met by providing a design which shows that:

- works are contained within the property boundary
- at full supply level, the area inundated is contained within the property boundaries
- bywash and spillway flows are returned to the original drainage feature before leaving the property.

## 3.4 Reconfiguring existing works

### 3.4.1 Performance outcome 10

**PO10** Construction of new works must not increase the overall take of **overland flow** water.

#### Demonstrating acceptable outcomes

Performance outcome 10 can be met by demonstrating acceptable outcome 10.1.

**AO10.1** Construction of new works must not result in an increase any of the following:

1. the capacity of the works to store water, or
2. the rate at which the works take water, or
3. the average volume of water taken by the works.

Details of the **existing works** must be submitted in accordance with the certified report. This report must have information which shows the capacity of the works to store water, the rate at which the works take water and the average volume of water taken by the works.

### Assessment against performance outcome 10

If reconfiguring of existing works applicants need to provide a design and **certified report** that shows that the construction of new works must not increase the overall take of overland flow water.

### 3.4.2 Performance outcomes 11 and 12

**PO11** Works must not involve reconfiguration of natural water bodies or **bunded** areas.

**PO12** Works must not involve reconfiguration of the storage capacity of any of the following:

1. a **lake** that was not used for irrigation or other **intensive stocking** or production; or
2. land being used for irrigated or dryland agriculture or areas surrounded by **levees** designed to prevent the land becoming inundated; or
3. naturally occurring infield storages.

#### Demonstrating acceptable outcomes

No acceptable outcome prescribed

### Assessment against performance outcomes 11 and 12

Applicants should provide aerial imagery, watercourse and topographic maps and ensure there are layout plans of the works in the certified report.

Applicants can find maps on the Queensland Globe located on the business portal at [www.business.qld.gov.au](http://www.business.qld.gov.au)

### 3.4.3 Performance outcome 13

**PO13** New works must be located within the **same premises** as the **existing works**.

#### Demonstrating acceptable outcomes

No acceptable outcome prescribed

#### Assessment against performance outcome 13

The proposed works must be undertaken on the same land ownership as the existing works

Applicants should provide imagery showing that the works are located on the same premises as the existing works.

Applicants can find maps on the Queensland Globe located on the business portal at [www.business.qld.gov.au](http://www.business.qld.gov.au).

## 3.5 Limited catchment area

Limited catchment areas are those in which limited catchment area parameters apply. This currently includes some sub-catchment areas of the Fitzroy and Burnett Basins.

### 3.5.1 Performance outcome 14

**PO14** In the limited catchment areas, any works for storing water must not:

1. be larger than necessary for storing water other than **overland flow water**; or
2. be able to take **floodwater** overflowing from any adjacent **watercourse**.

#### Demonstrating acceptable outcomes

Performance outcome 14 can be met by demonstrating acceptable outcome 14.1.

**AO14.1** In the limited catchment areas, the **incidental take of overland flow water**:

1. is located within the sub-catchment/management area listed in table 10.3.1, column 2 for the relevant limited catchment area; and
2. is stored in a local catchment area that is less than or equal to the area of the limited catchment area specified in table 10.3.1, column 3.

Note limited catchments are in table 10.3.1 of the code.

Performance outcome 14 can be met by ensuring that the development is consistent with the areas mentioned in table 10.3.1 of the code. In these areas, the incidental take of overland flow water:

- is located within the sub-catchment/management area listed in column 2 of table 10.3.1 of the code for the relevant limited catchment area , or
- is stored in a local catchment area that is less than or equal to the area of the limited catchment area specified in column 3 of table 10.3.1 of the code.

#### Assessment against performance outcome 14

In limited catchment areas, applicants need to demonstrate any works are not larger than necessary for storing water other than overland flow water or not be able to take **floodwater** overflowing from any adjacent watercourse.

### 3.6 Contaminated agricultural run-off water

The code aims to minimise the adverse affects of contaminated agricultural run-off water. Contaminated agricultural run-off water is overland flow water that contains, or is likely to contain, excess nutrients or farm chemicals at levels potentially harmful to the quality of water in a watercourse, lake or spring.

#### 3.6.1 Performance outcome 15

**PO15** Works to take **contaminated agricultural run-off water** must:

1. demonstrate that there is no alternative way to take the water by using or reconfiguring **existing works**
2. be no larger than necessary to contain **contaminated agricultural run-off water** or tailwater
3. minimise the volume of water that becomes **contaminated agricultural run-off water**
4. where practicable, allow for water that is not **contaminated agricultural run-off water** or tailwater to be passed through the works.

#### Demonstrating acceptable outcomes

No acceptable outcome prescribed

#### Assessment against performance outcome 15

The applicant will need to demonstrate that the works are required. To demonstrate this, the applicant can:

- provide a certified report that demonstrates:
  - rainfall run-off from the land contains or is likely to contain, excess nutrients or farm chemicals at levels potentially harmful to the quality of water in the watercourse
  - how the works will be constructed to address this
- show that the capture of contaminated agricultural run-off water is necessary as determined by an industry-accredited **best management practice program**.

The applicant will then need to demonstrate that there is no alternative way to take the water by using or reconfiguring existing works and that the works are no larger than necessary to contain contaminated agricultural run-off water or tailwater. To demonstrate this, the applicant must:

- show that existing storages cannot be used to contain the contaminated agricultural run-off or tailwater (e.g. existing storages are for stock and domestic watering purposes)
- provide evidence that supports the proposed storage volume (e.g. catchment area of dam and calculated contaminated run-off volume).

Information should also be provided about how the works propose to minimise the volume of water that becomes contaminated agricultural runoff water. Evidence must be given that shows that:

- works must capture and retain first flush and cannot be allowed to be returned to watercourses or drainage features (e.g. excavated storage with one way flap valve which closes once the first flush volume is reached)
- once **contaminated agricultural runoff water** is captured, all other runoff is to bypass the storage via the main drain
- the transfer or take of the water from the storage is not to occur until a runoff event has ceased.

The design of the works should have regard to relevant industry guidelines and best practice environmental management.

### 3.7 Environmentally relevant activity

#### 3.7.1 Performance outcome 16

**PO16** Works only capture **overland flow** water necessary for the operation of the **environmentally relevant activity** or **environmental authority** under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.

#### Demonstrating acceptable outcomes

No acceptable outcome prescribed

#### Assessment against Performance outcome 16

Applicants need to ensure that the works are consistent with the information specified for the environmentally relevant activity or the environmental authority under the Environmental Protection Act.

### 3.8 Coal seam gas water

#### 3.8.1 Performance outcome 17

**PO17** Any storage for the works must:

1. be no larger than necessary to store **coal seam gas water** for the **beneficial use** of the resource under chapter 8 of the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011*
2. minimise the volume of **overland flow water** taken
3. not be able to take **floodwater** from any adjacent watercourse not contain **coal seam gas water** that could be stored in an existing alternative storage.

#### Demonstrating acceptable outcomes

No acceptable outcome prescribed

#### Assessment against Performance outcome 17

To meet this outcome applicants need to provide a design showing that the works are no larger than necessary to store the coal seam gas. They also need to show that it excludes overland flow as much as possible.



## 4 Glossary

**Authorisation** means a water licence, water permit, water allocation or other authority to take or interfere with water under the *Water Act 2000*.

**Beneficial use** means the resource such as water has a beneficial use other than disposal. An example of beneficial use is reusing or recycling water.

**Best practice environmental management**, for an activity, see *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.

In deciding best practice environmental management of an activity is the management of the activity to achieve an ongoing minimisation of the activity's environmental harm through cost-effective measures assessed against the measures currently used nationally and internationally for the activity.

In deciding the best practice environmental management of an activity, regard must be had to the following measures:

1. strategic planning by the person carrying out, or proposing to carry out, the activity
2. administrative systems put into effect by the person, including staff training and monitoring and review of the systems
3. public consultation carried out by the person
4. product and process design
5. waste prevention, treatment and disposal.

**Bywash** means water that is diverted from a dam or reservoir and is usually associated with a pipe or other structure to prevent uncontrolled overtopping.

**Coal seam gas water** means underground water brought to the surface of the earth or moved underground in connection with exploring for or producing coal seam gas.

**Contaminated agricultural run-off water** means overland flow water that contains, or is likely to contain, excess nutrients or farm chemicals at levels potentially harmful to the quality of water in a watercourse, lake or spring.

**Environmental authority** Environmental authority means generally an environmental authority issued under section 195 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* that approves an environmentally relevant activity applied for in an application.

**Environmentally relevant activity (ERA)** Each of the following is an environmentally relevant activity:

1. an agricultural ERA as defined under section 75 of the Environmental Protection Act 1994
2. a resource activity as defined under section 107 of the Environmental Protection Act 1994

**Existing works** means works that allow taking of overland flow water that are in existence at the time the relevant development application is made.

**Floodwater** Floodwater, in relation to a watercourse or lake, means water that has overflowed the outer banks of the watercourse, or the bed and banks of the lake, because of a flood event affecting the watercourse or lake, and is on land near the watercourse or lake. See the *Water Act 2000*.

**Incidental take of overland flow water** means to take overland flow water in a storage that is primarily for storing water from a source other than overland flow.

**Intensive stocking** means a technique of stocking land on a long term basis above what is normally considered to be the carrying capacity of the land, for example, by implementing strategic or rotational grazing.

**Lake** Lake includes:

1. if a feature is identified on the watercourse identification map as a lake – means the feature identified on the map; or
2. otherwise, includes:
  - a. a lagoon, swamp or other natural collection of water, whether permanent or intermittent
  - b. the bed and banks and any other element confining or containing the water.

**Levee** means an artificial embankment or structure which prevents or reduces the flow of overland flow water onto or from land. A levee includes levee-related infrastructure. See schedule 4 of the *Water Act 2000*.

**Overland flow water** means water, including floodwater, that is urban stormwater or is other water flowing over land, other than in a watercourse or lake:

- a. after having fallen as rain or in any other way; or
- b. after rising to the surface naturally from underground

does not include:

- c. water that has naturally infiltrated the soil in normal farming operations, including infiltration that has occurred in farming activity such as clearing, replanting and broadacre ploughing; or
- d. tailwater from irrigation if the tailwater recycling meets best practice requirements; or
- e. water collected from roofs for rainwater tanks.

**Same premises** means contiguous parcels of land or tenure under the same land ownership or tenure holder.

**Spring** means:

1. if a feature is identified on the watercourse identification map as a spring – the feature identified on the map; or
2. otherwise – the land to which water rises naturally from below the ground and the land over which the water then flows.

**Underground water** means water that occurs naturally in, or is introduced artificially into, an aquifer.

**Water entitlement** means a water allocation, interim water allocation or water licence granted under the *Water Act 2000*.

**Water plan** means a plan approved by the Governor in Council under section 48(1) of the *Water Act 2000*

**Water management protocol** means a protocol made by the chief executive under section 68 of the *Water Act 2000*

**Water sensitive urban design** means design that integrates total water cycle management into the urban built form to minimise the effects of development on the natural water cycle and environmental values, and to address water supply and use. See the *Water Plan (Moreton) 2007*.

**Watercourse** A watercourse:

1. is a river, creek or other stream, including a stream in the form of an anabranch or a tributary, in which water flows permanently or intermittently, regardless of the frequency of flow events:
  - a. in a natural channel, whether artificially modified or not; or
  - b. in an artificial channel that has changed the course of the stream
2. includes any of the following located in it:
  - a. in-stream islands
  - b. benches
  - c. bars
3. does not, however, include a drainage feature
4. further, unless there is a contrary intention, a reference to a watercourse in the *Water Act 2000*, other than in section 5 or in the definitions in schedule 4 to the extent they support the operation of section 5, is a reference to anywhere that is:
  - a. upstream of the downstream limit of the watercourse
  - b. between the lateral limits of the watercourse
  - c. a reference to the *Water Act 2000* to, or a to a circumstance that involves, land adjoining a watercourse, is a reference to, or a circumstance that involves, and effectively adjoining a watercourse.

Section 5AA of the *Water Act 2000* provides for the watercourse identification map that identifies the known extent of watercourses and drainage features that are managed under the *Water Act 2000*, and is available at the following link: [www.business.qld.gov.au/industry/water/managing-accessing/accessing-water/authorisations/watercourse-map](http://www.business.qld.gov.au/industry/water/managing-accessing/accessing-water/authorisations/watercourse-map). Please be aware that the majority of minor watercourses and drainage features in Queensland have not yet been mapped, as indicated in the mapping, and therefore it should not be the only source of information that is relied upon when interpreting the SDAP provisions or identifying assessment triggers.